

CHAMPVA ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following persons are eligible for CHAMPVA benefits, providing they are not eligible for CHAMPUS or Medicare Part A .

- the spouse or child of a veteran who has been rated by a VA regional office as having a permanent and total service-connected condition/disability;
- the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who died as a result of a VA rated service-connected condition; or who, at the time of death, was rated permanently and totally disabled from a service-connected condition; and,
- the surviving spouse or child of a person who died in the line of duty and not due to misconduct within 30 days of entry into active military service.

Individuals, 65 or older, who lose CHAMPVA eligibility by becoming potentially eligible for Medicare Part A or who qualify for Medicare Part A benefits on the basis of disability, may re-establish CHAMPVA eligibility by submitting documentation from the Social Security Administration (SSA) certifying their non-entitlement to or exhaustion of Medicare Part A benefits.

Otherwise eligible individuals under age 65 who are enrolled in both Medicare Parts A & B are potentially eligible for CHAMPVA as secondary payor to Medicare. To determine CHAMPVA eligibility, SSA documentation of enrollment in both Parts A & B is required.

Definitions

Service-connected condition/disability – refers to a VA determination that a veteran's illness or injury was incurred or aggravated while on active duty in military service and resulted in some degree of disability.

Sponsor – refers to the veteran upon whom CHAMPVA eligibility for the applicant is based.

Spouse – refers to a wife/husband or widow(er) of an eligible CHAMPVA sponsor whose legal relationship to that sponsor has been established by a VA regional office. In some instances, may include a remarried surviving spouse whose remarriage is either terminated by annulment or legally determined void when supported by appropriate documentation.

Child – includes legitimate, adopted, illegitimate, and stepchildren whose legal relationship to the sponsor has been established by a VA regional office. To be eligible, the child must be unmarried and:

- under the age of 18; or
- who, before reaching age 18, became permanently incapable of self-support as rated by a VA regional office; or
- who, after reaching age 18 and continuing up to age 23, is enrolled in a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution (school certification required – see description below).

NOTE: The eligibility of children is not affected by divorce or remarriage of the spouse or surviving spouse (except that a stepchild relationship ceases when the stepchild leaves the sponsor's household).

School Certification

In order to extend CHAMPVA benefits to students 18 to 23 years of age, school certification of full-time enrollment (12 credit hours per semester or the equivalent number of credit hours on any academic calendar) must be submitted by the school for each school term. School certifications, which must include the beginning and ending dates of that particular school period, may be submitted by mail or by telefax at 303-331-7804. To ensure proper identification, the school letter should include the student's CHAMPVA Authorization Card (A-Card) Number and Social Security Number.

NOTE: Pre-enrollment letters are not acceptable as these are considered letters of intent rather than certification of attendance.